FIRE GUARD newsletter

Number 39
May 1989

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MONTANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL BUREAU
303 NORTH ROBERTS (ROOM 371)
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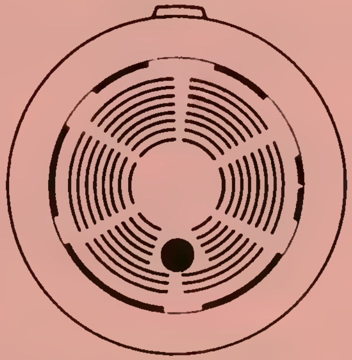
What's Inside



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The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make other so. This is that great time of year when many of us become movers and shakers. In Montana we call it the pothole season!

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STATE OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FIRE MARSHAL BUREAU

IAAI/MFPA MEETINGS

March 28-30 were the dates of the annual meetings of the Montana Fire Prevention Association and the Montana Chapter of I.A.A.I. Approximately twenty were in attendance.

The meetings began with a videotape of the Helena train incident. Fire Marshal Bob Knudsen, Fire Inspectors Fritz Zettel and Harry Crawford of the Helena Fire Department gave an excellent presentation and pointed out the importance for all fire officials to begin seriously thinking about the haz-mat situation. An accident such as this can happen anywhere. Pre-planning and forethought are absolutely essential in order to safely respond to a catastrophic incident which could result in life loss.

Almost the entire second day was taken up by Rich Levandowski of the state Fire Marshal Bureau. The subject was Flammable/Combustible Liquid Fuel Storage Tanks, Article 79 of the Uniform Fire Code. Comments indicated the presentation was a successful educational experience.

The Fire Marshal Bureau, in conjunction with the state Department of Health and Environmental Sciences have been travelling the state presenting tank seminars in an attempt to educate distributors, installers, owners and fire department inspectors, as well as others, on proper tank installation and/or removal according to Federal EPA, State Health and Fire Codes.

It has been very disturbing to find a tremendous lack of interest by members of the fire service, the enforcers of the code. This was another opportunity for the fire people to receive some education.

The day closed with a presentation by state Fire Marshal, Ray Blehm, on legislation. A large number of bills which affect the fire service were presented this legislative session.

By Rich Levandowski

****

On March 30, 1989 the Montana Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators met. The meeting was chaired by Creighton Sales, First Vice President, as the President, Ted Main, was not present.

A discussion was held on the certification of fire investigators, relating to the testing, who or wh[illegible] agency of the state would administer the test and the amount of the fee to be charged. Many of the states now have a certification program for their fire investigators as it is believed that, with this certification, more credibility is afforded the fire investigator when called to testify in court on a fire related case such as arson or in civil cases of subrogation by insurance companies.

A brief presentation of Arson for Profit was made by Bruce Houston and an overview of the Arson for Profit school that he attended at the Federal Training Center, located at Glenco, Georgia.

There were plenty of empty seats at both the Fire Prevention Association meeting and the I.A.A.I. Let's spread the word and get some new members and have the past members become active again. Organizations such as these need your participation and input.

By Bruce Houston

Montana Fire Prevention Association Officers:
President - Steve Tucek, Lewistown
First V. President - Dick Swingley, Great Falls
Sec./Treasurer - Fritz Zettel, Helena

Montana Chapter I.A.A.I. Officers:
President - Ted Main, Kalispell
First V. President - Creighton Sayles, Missoula
Sec./Treasurer - Bob Knudsen, Helena

FIRE SAFE CIGARETTES

Currently there are two bills introduced in Congress which deal with the subject of fire safe cigarettes. EAch bill takes a different approach to improving cigarette safety.

HR293, introduced by Representative Moakley, would mandate the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to promulgate fire safety standards for cigarettes and other purposes. This legislation states that Congress finds that cigarette ignited fires are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States and that in 1984 they caused 1,570 deaths, 7,000 serious injuries and $3[illegible] million in property damage.

If enacted, this bill would require CPSC to issue a fire safety standard within one year.

HR673, introduced by Representative Boucher, would re-establish the Interagency Committee on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety to continue the work specified by the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984. The committee would develop a validated test method to determine the ignition propensity of cigarettes when in contact with upholstered furniture, continue laboratory studies, collect base line data and assess the commercial feasibility and economic impact of marketing fire safe cigarettes.

Fire Service professionals may want to contact congressmen on the bill which you favor.

NORTHWEST FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Advance notice for next years' budget consideration is given for those who are interested in executive level training for fire service managers and those who aspire to become managers. The Northwest Fire Service Management Seminar is sponsored by the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association.

This education opportunity is scheduled for February 28 through March 2, 1990 at the Red Lion Columbia River Inn, in Portland, Oregon. The theme of this seminar is: The Challenge Of The 90's.

For further information please contact: Don Milligan, Registrar, 461 Sacre Lane North, Monmouth, Oregon 97361 or call (503) 838-2309.

MONTANA FIRE MOBILIZATION

The second general meeting of state and federal agencies, with representatives of the Montana State Fire Chiefs Association, was held April 20, 1989 at the West Helena Valley Volunteer Fire Department station.

The goal of this meeting was to hear the reports of the three subcommittees on rates, training and equipment and adopt recommendations for the 1989 fire season. These goals were accomplished and the Department of State Lands will begin contacting all local fire agencies to document available manpower and equipment resources.

The federal agencies intend to work through State Lands to hire and process Montana's local fire resources. Local fire chiefs of volunteer fire departments will be asked to certify their personnel as Emergency Fire Fighters (EFF) 2, 3 or 4. The rates will be EFF-2 $6.66/hr, EFF-3 $7.68/hr and EFF-4 $8.90/hr.

Under this program the EFF grades can be based on the higher of the assigned position on a crew or the equivalent NFPA base training level. In other words, an FF1 is equal to a trained crew member and would receive the EFF2 rate of pay. A trained crew member rated as FF2 or a person assigned as driver operator would receive EFF-3 pay. A person assigned as Company Officer or trained to FF3 standards would receive EFF-4 pay. Chiefs need to take care to properly rate training levels as crew performance will be rated and could affect future call out.

The intent is that, in several years, FSTS or DSL rating of EFF levels will be required. This should give added incentive to local firefighters to attain state rating.

Standards for apparatus and equipment were adopted which rate structural engines, wildland engines, patrol vehicles, water tender engines and water tenders. Each type of apparatus will need to meet minimum equipment levels to qualify by type.

An example of this would be a Class 1 structural engine. To qualify, the apparatus would need to have a 1,000 gallon pump, 400 gallon water tank, 1,200 feet of 2 1/2" or larger hose, 400 feet of 1 1/2" hose, 200 feet of 1" hose, a 500 g.p.m. master stream appliance, be manned by three personnel and be capable of drafting through hard suction carried on board. The rate paid would be the smaller of $1,500.00 per day or $100 per hour.

Paid fire departments personnel will be contracted for at their normal wages and benefits through their respective fire departments.

State Lands will be sending out packets to fire departments the first week in May. Please read this information carefully. If you have questions, contact the Fire Management Bureau in Missoula at 542-4304 or call your area State Land office.

ARSON QUIZ
TRUE OR FALSE

1. The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program classifies arson as a part one crime.

2. Once you have been qualified in court as an expert in fire cause determination you are automatically qualified to testify in this same capacity at future court hearings.

3. The "nexus" rule pertains to the lawful seizure of items (evidence) in plain view.

4. A presumption is the assumption of a fact without proof, on the basis of other proven facts.

5. A "chain of custody" is the combination of documented "links" between the time a piece of evidence is seized up until the time it is offered into evidence at a trial.

6. Flammable gases do not have a flash point.

7. A narrow "V" burn pattern is indicative to a rapid, fast fire.

8. A wide "V" burn pattern is indicative to a rapid, fast fire.

9. Electrical conductors found in a "beaded" condition after a fire are positive proof of an electrical fire.

ANSWERS: 1=true; 2=false; 3=true; 4=true; 5=true; 6=true; 7=true; 8=false; 9=false

Cite: California State Fire Marshal Journal, January/February 1989, No.6.

CLANDESTINE DRUG LABS AND THE FIRST RESPONDER

By Merv Frye

What are clandestine drug labs? They are makeshift laboratories for manufacturing controlled substances such as methamphetamine (speed), PCP (angel dust), and designer drugs (synthetics). The labs contain commercial glassware (beakers, round bottom boiling flasks, reflux condensers, separatory funnels, etc.); (sometimes homemade) equipment; and **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** Almost without exception, everyone who enters a drug lab without proper protection experiences some sort of adverse health effect. These effects range from headaches to death. The chemicals and processes involved are toxic, reactive, flammable, explosive and corrosive.

Where are clandestine drug labs located? They are found just about everywhere - boats, automobiles, buses, trucks, motor homes, trailers, houses, apartments, motels, hotels and high rises. In general, the operators prefer rural rather than urban surroundings.

What are some clues to the presence of a clandestine drug lab? On the outside, odors - strong, continuous odors that resemble the smell of dried cat urine or rotting garbage. On the inside, the biggest tip-off is the glassware and laboratory equipment. When you recognize that you are in a drug lab, **GET OUT!** Don't touch anything; don't ask questions; keep your crew together; and **LEAVE.**

When a clandestine drug lab is on fire, what should you do? If it is a known drug lab and it is in a single family dwelling or vehicle, let it burn. Notify your dispatcher about what you have found, request a hazardous materials team, law enforcement, other appropriate agencies and state your immediate plan of action. Your immediate plan of action should include: wearing full protective clothing and SCBA, designating an Incident Commander, evacuating structures on all four sides of the involved area, evacuating downwind, protecting exposures, establishing a command post and directing other arriving personnel. If the fire is in a motel, hotel, high rise, or similar structure, and it is a known drug lab, the best strategy may be containment with evacuation around, above and below the involved area and possibly extinguishment. Again, the above immediate plan of action applies. Positive pressure ventilation may be used when entry is determined to be necessary. **CAUTION:** Do not use negative pressure ventilation. Additionally, when using water for confinement and/or extinguishment, set all nozzles to a fog pattern. Use as little water as possible because all runoff will be contaminated and require containment. When the fire has been knocked down, leave and secure the immediate area. Do not attempt salvage or overhaul operations. For all known drug labs, a pre-incident plan is essential. If the involved area has not bee pre-identified as a drug lab, upon recognition get out and reassess your plan of action.

Why aren't known clandestine drug labs put out of operation immediately? Identified drug labs are often allowed to operate for lack of resources. One resource is money. Tens of thousands of dollars must be spent for the proper disposal of the hazardous materials associated with a drug lab, and tens of thousands of dollars must be spent prosecuting and incarcerating the drug lab operators. Another resource is sufficiently trained and safely equipped personnel. Without the proper training and equipment, lives are lost, disabled and threatened; environments are destroyed, damaged and polluted. Additionally, a resource is time. It takes time to plan and time to organize.

Other hazards are often found when operating in and around clandestine drug labs. Drug labs are generally booby-trapped. The most common types encountered are contact explosives. These bombs re found in sizes ranging anywhere from as small as a marble to as large as a baseball and consist of two chemicals that, when combined and dried, are volatile and unstable. Once formed, the compound is wrapped in aluminum foil and stabilized in alcohol. For use, the explosives are placed in strategic locations and the alcohol is allowed to evaporate. Death or disfigurement now await the unsuspecting. More dangers: explosive devices connected to light switches, razor sharp fish hooks at eye level attached to trip wires, its and pungi sticks, guns and other weapons, violent individuals, etc...

What type of person operates a clandestine drug lab? Known as "Cookers," drug lab operators are generally users of their own product. They often live and die among their laboratory equipment and hazardous materials. The most tragic situations are when children live in the drug labs with the cooker. Everyone entering a drug lab becomes contaminated.

What precaution must always be taken when anyone or anything has been a clandestine drug lab? Without exception, everyone and everything that leaves a drug lab must be decontaminated before unprotected handling or transport. Many costly vehicles have been sent to the crusher because the suspect and/or evidence was not decontaminated before being transported.

What can you do to prepare yourself and others for that possible encounter with a clandestine drug lab? Multi-agency trust, communication and training are good beginners for incidents involving drug labs. You, as an individual, you as a department, cannot do it alone - it requires teamwork. Know who makes up the team in your area. Good teams include local, state and sometimes federal Law Enforcement, Fire, Health and Environmental representatives. Get together - train together - stay alive together! The answer to the question, "Will the action that I take produce a favorable outcome?" is not an easy one to find.

About the author: Merv Frye has been with the Tacoma (Washington) Fire Department for 12 years and is a Training and Field Lieutenant. His man fields in training are hazardous materials and safety. Before joining the Tacoma FD, he worked in firefighting with the U.S. Navy for five years.

Cite: Copyright 1988, Board of Regents, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma / Speaking of Fire..............

NOTE: THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU urges that, upon discovery of a clandestine drug lab, it is important to call for a chemist on scene immediately. Contact the State Crime Lab at 728-4970 or DEA in Great Falls at 771-0333.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

HB14 (Cobb) Transfers the Fire Services Training School to the Board of Regents. Status of the placement of FSTS within the system remains undecided.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 2/16, effective 7/1/89.

HB41 (Gilbert) Provides for Interstate Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreements. Agreements must be submitted to the State's Attorney General and approved.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 2/4, effective 2/4/89.

HB121 (Wallin) Provides authority to the chief, or his deputy, of a Rural Fire Service Area, to enter property to fight fires. Includes a provision for the same level of immunity that the chief of a Fire District has. Provides for election of trustees of a Fire Service Area in the same manner as a Fire District.
STATUS: Signed by governor 3/13, effective 10/1/89.

HB338 (Thomas) Would exempt chiefs of Fire Districts and Volunteer Fire Chiefs from making inspections.
STATUS: Tabled in house local government 1/31/89.

HB340 (Lee) Clarifies the authority of a city or town to ban fireworks.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/3, effective 4/3/89.

HB375 (Gould) Allows Fire Districts to consolidate upon vote by Boards of Trustees. Property owners have 30 days to protest. Take more than 50% to void consolidation.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 3/27, effective 10/1/89.

HB436 (Gould) Would allow Rural Fire Districts to contract within the city limits.
STATUS: Local Government Adverse Committee report adopted 2/9/89.

HB447 (Clark) Increases the amount of smokeless powder and primer storage in retail outlets if Uniform Fire Code provisions are not liberalized and adopted by March 31, 1990.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/12, effective 4/1/1990.

HB489 (Rice) Delete Impending Explosion Warning as disorderly conduct under 45-8-101 M.C.A. which had ta maximum penalty of 10 days and $100 fine. This would still be a crime under 45-7-204 M.C.A. with a maximum penalty of $500 fine and 6 months in jail.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/12, effective 10/1/89.

HB531 (Clark) Allows surviving spouse to receive pension benefit after remarriage. Firefighters Unified Pension System.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 3/11, effective 7/1/89.

HB539 (Moore) Would require safety inspections of rental residences.
STATUS: Tabled in House Business Committee 2/13/89.

HB552 (Nelson, T) PRovides for licenses, permits and fees for underground storage tank installation and closure.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/21, effective 4/21, 7/19, 10/1.

HB592 (Driscoll) Allows fire and law enforcement agencies to recover costs for suppression and investigation of arson fires and creates a tax lien if taxes are due and unpaid on insured property on insurance proceeds.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/5, effective 10/1/89.

HB603 (Raney) a 3/4 cent fee on gasoline will fund an $8 million Underground storage tank clean up fund. Creates a petroleum tank release compensation board.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/13, effective 4/13, 7/1, 10/1.

SB15 (Halligan) Would require the seller of a residence to certify that smoke detection equipment was present upon sale of residence.
STATUS: Tabled in House Business and Economic Development 3/14/89.

SB178 (Yellowtail) Provides a pension adjustment provision for paid firefighters hired after July 1, 1981.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/5, effective 7/1/89.

SB207 (Brown) Requires a landlord to install, in accordance with rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal, an approved smoke detector in each dwelling unit.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/3, effective 4/3/89.

SB212 (Hager) Would require the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules for below grade use of LPG appliances.
STATUS: Adverse Committee Report adopted 2/09/89.

SB216 (Manning) Fire fighting vehicles removed from definition of commercial vehicles.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/13, effective 4/13/89.

SB271 (Manning) Revises the requirement for a tax levy to support local relief associations from 3% of taxable value in the fund to 5% taxable value in the fund.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/13, effective 4/13/89.

SB295 (Hager) Would limit liability of advisors in haz mat spills or clean up.
STATUS: Tabled in House Natural Resources 3/14/89.

SB321 (Beck) Generally revises the Hazardous Waste Act, includes underground storage tanks and related fees.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 3/30, effective 3/30/89.

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL II

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Position #23006

The Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Services Division, Fire Marshal Bureau, will begin recruiting for the following position beginning May 8, 1989. Application information is available by contacting your local Montana Job Service or the Helena Job Service Office, 715 Front Street, Helena, Montana 59601; telephone (406) 449-6006.

Deputy State Fire Marshal II, grade 15. Employees new to state government will customarily begin at an annual salary of $21,505. If the successful applicant does not have all the necessary education and experience, a training assignment at the grade 14 level (starting salary $19,760) for a period of one year will be required. Location: Helena (Relocation at a later date may possibly be necessary).

Typical Duties: Inspects public buildings, institutions and multiple residences for compliance with fire and life safety regulations; investigates fires or fire-related incidents as requested, including suspicious fires where the cause(s) cannot be readily determined; prepares written reports of findings; testifies in court; inspects installed fire safety systems and equipment; makes determinations based on inspections, concerning issuing licenses to certain state-owned and state-regulated properties; answers inquiries and provides consultation and interpretation of relevant codes and regulations; provides training and technical assistance for organizing and coordinating public education programs; performs related work as required.

Qualifications: Thorough knowledge of the Montana Criminal Justice System regarding laws of arson, evidence;

interrogation and arrest; Montana State Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS); general codes, laws and recognized standards of good practice regarding fire and life safety and explosion hazards and their application to various structures and conditions; proper installation methods and functions of various fire extinguishing and alarm systems; investigative techniques. Considerable knowledge of building construction and automobile assembly; fire behavior in various types of structures, wildlands and motor vehicles; basic accounting principles. Working knowledge of supervisory techniques. Skill in the use of investigative equipment; firearms. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, other agencies and the public; to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing; keep records; interpret the intent of relevant laws and regulations and apply them in non-standard situations; plan and conduct arson investigation training/education programs; coordinate activities of investigative teams; understand and analyze business and commercial records; work under physically strenuous conditions.

These knowledges, skills and abilities are typically acquired through graduation from high school, two years of full-time experience as a fire marshal and five years of progressively responsible experience in one or more of the following areas: fire suppression, fire safety inspection, code enforcement, fire investigation and fire prevention. Specialized courses in fire investigation, arson investigation and basic law enforcement should have been completed during work experience. Other combinations of education and experience which could provide the required knowledges, skills and abilities will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Special Requirements: Considerable travel requiring a valid Montana Driver's license and a driving history record containing no more than nine (9) points; will need to qualify in the use of firearms and as a law enforcement officer; on 24-hour call.

Application and Selection Process: Applicants must (1), submit a completed State Application form and (2), successfully pass a driving history and criminal history records check. Applicants who have successfully competed the requirement listed above and who pass the initial screening will be required to complete a written test on building and fire safety codes and a writing skills test. Finalists for the position will have a background and reference check conducted and will be given a structured oral interview. Final confirmation as a Deputy State Fire Marshal II will be made following a six month performance appraisal/probationary employment period. In accordance with Federal law (P.L.99-603), the applicant hired will be required to provide documentation showing proof of non-illegal alien status. All applications must be returned to your local Montana Job Service by 5:00 P.M. June 9, 1989.

The Department of Justice encourages women and minorities to apply. The Department of Justice is an AA/EEO employer.

MONTANA CITIZENS AWARD
CERTIFICATE OF VALOR
FIRE SERVICE NOMINATING FORM

Montana Fire Marshal Advisory Board
State Fire Marshal Bureau
303 North Roberts, Room 371
Helena, MT 59620-1417

Date ____________________

Gentlemen:

I wish to nominate ____________________

Address (if living) ____________________, deceased ☐

Description of heroic act:

____

____

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____

____

Person or organization making nomination ____________________

____

Address ____________________

Signed ____________________

(Please enclose a photograph & any newspaper articles of the nominee.)
Photocopy this page if additional forms are needed.

The Montana Certificate of Valor is awarded yearly to a private citizen that has performed an unselfish act of heroism. This award is based on nominations from the firefighting service personnel throughout the state.

The 1987 Certificate of Valor recipient was James Southworth, a custodian at the Parmly Billings Library. Mr. Southworth was credited with saving the lives of many library workers when a gas leak was discovered and an explosion occurred.

Ms. Laurie Dickhaut, of Glendive, Montana was the 1986 Certificate of Valor recipient. While babysitting, a grease-filled pan ignited on the stove and Laurie is credited with saving the lives of the two children she was tending.

To date, our office has received no nominations for 1988. If you feel you know of someone that is deserving of this award, we urge you to complete the above nominating form and return it without delay.

Fire Training Section

NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Board of Public Education appointed two new Members to the Fire Service Training Advisory Council on March 16. They are Dr. Ken Bruwelheide, Professor at MSU and Dean Glover, Fire Chief in Plentywood.

Ken fills the position which requires a professional educator and Dean the one requiring a representative of the insurance industry. They will complete the terms of Dennis McChesney and Tom Wood who had resigned.

THANKS TO...

RIC ANDERSON, Chief Whitefish Volunteer Fire Department, BOB BELL, Training Officer; Culbertson and DOUG LOWRY, Chief Big Timber for the letters sent, and to all others who called your representatives on the Finance and Claims Committee. The resulted was a recommendation to provide an additional $4200 General Fund to help keep Resource Center access fees down. Senators Bengtson, Manning, Hammond and Jacobson were outspoken in their support during deliberations.

There aren't any hopeless situations - only people who have come to feel hopeless about them!

INSTRUCTOR KITS - - -

(Recently added to your Resource Center are two new Instructor Kits by Emergency Resources. Contact FSTS to get on the waiting list!)

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER: BREED APART is a six-part Course that uses workbooks and video to discuss "Volunteerism". Course objectives include: importance of volunteers; history of volunteers' planning for new members; recruiting; training; leadership and how to motivate volunteers. This would be a good Course for an association with several member fire departments. The video Instructor for this Course is Chief Jack Snook, who is an internationally recognized leader in volunteer fire fighter development.

Workbooks are required for this Course at a cost of $11 each.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: FIRE OFFICER'S ROLE is a nine-part Course that uses video tapes and student workbooks to teach officership and leadership. Ron Coleman is the video Instructor. Topics include: getting along; lead or follow; problem solving and conflict resolution; getting the job done; evaluations and professionalism. This would also be a good Course for several fire officers from different departments to attend. Total hours for this Course could range from 20 to 30 hours.

Student workbooks are required for this Course at a cost of $8.50 each.

FIRE ATTACK is a Course on strategy and tactics of initial company response. This Course has been used by a dozen fire departments this last year. It's a good 12 hour Course that covers fire behavior, ventilation, residential and commercial fire attack.

Student workbooks are required for this Course at a cost of $7 each.

RESOURCE CENTER ADDITIONS

TITLE	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
American Fire Engines 1900-75	B0576	Fire apparatus pictures
American Heat Dec 88	V0310	1st report Kansas City explosion
American Heat Jan 89	V0313	Kansas City follow-up report
American Heat Feb 89	V0317	LPG, Liquid propane tabletop
American Heat Mar 89	V0318	Flashover, school shootings
Anhydrous Ammonia	V0312	Specific info on product
Be Prepared - Just In Case	V0322	Transportation of pesticides
Boarding Home Fire, Penn 1985	M0712	Technical report
Breathing Apparatus Skills	V0323	FF1 and FF2 skills
Breathing Apparatus Use & Care	V0295	MSA SCBA slides on video
Brewer Fire Shelter Story	V0299	Interview with crew chief
Collapse of Burning Buildings	B0569	Textbook of collapse
Don't Drink and Drive	V0306	Stresses not to drink & drive
Evacuation of Disabled Persons	V0315	3 Hour Teleconference
Evacuation of Medical Facility	V0319	New video - help patients exit
Eye On Fire, 18 Minutes	V0300	Phoenix safety and humor
Fatal Fire Training Incident	M0714	Technical report
Fire Cause Determination, Intro	V0329	How FF's can determine cause
Fire Extinguishers 1st Respond	V0320	Extinguisher for civilians
Fire Litigation Handbook	B0573	Comprehensive litigation
Fire Protection Guide Haz Mats	B0575	Good research manual
Flower Street/Arvin 5-Alarmer	V0303	Two big Phoenix fires
Forcible Entry - Inst. Guide	L0139	LP for FE Skills video
Forcible Entry	V0326	FF1 and FF2 skills
Incident Command System	M0703	Textbook on ICS
Infection Control	V0304	New precautions for FF to take
Ladder Skills	V0324	FF1 and FF2 skills
Ladder Skills - Inst. Guide	L0135	LP for related video
Life Safety Handbook	B0577	Newest life safety handbook
Live Fire Training NFPA 1403	M0706	Standard 1403
National Fuel Gas Codes Handbook	B0571	New standard handbook
Occupational Safety NFPA 1500	M0708	Standard 1500
One-Thousand GPM Tender Drill	V0316	Alaska FD drill
Out of Chaos	V0314	Haz Mat general video
Plan To Get Out Alive	V0307	Public Ed video home escape
Protective Clothing Design	M0695	New ideas on protective cloths
Rehab Van & RBO Process	V0302	Phoenix tape
Rescue Skills	V0325	FF1 and FF2 skills
Rescue Skills - Inst. Guide	L0136	LP for related video
SCBA Skills - Inst Guide	L0137	LP for related video
Six FF Fatalities, Kansas City	M0710	Technical report
Sulfuric & Hydrochloric Acid	V0311	Good haz mat info
Trench Rescue & Trench Jack	V0301	Rescue techniques and tools
Ventilation Skills	V0327	FF1 and FF2 skills
Ventilation Skills - Inst. Guide	L0138	LP for related video
Vol Fire Fighter - Breed Apart	K0046	New Instructor Kit for volunteers
Wake-Up Stay Alive Slides/Video	V0328	Smoke detector slides on video
Wall Collapse	V0309	Intro to wall collapse
Warehouse Fire 3 FF Die, Detroit	M0315	Technical report
Wildland Fire Suppression	V0321	Wildfire basics on video

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

by Alan Brunacini

I remember as a young firefighter routinely watching the shoes of my battalion chief walk by as I crawled around on the smoky floors of fire buildings (pre-SCBA) and wondering if he could breathe through his ears (Figure 1). He belonged to a generation of officers with a very active, far-ranging style of fireground management: they would typically move around the entire fireground, give direct orders (loud), visually evaluate operations, and personally manipulate the work of fire companies. They were strong leaders and knew instinctively what had to be done. They were tough guys who practiced what they had learned from their fireground dads, and their command approach was adequate for most routine situations.

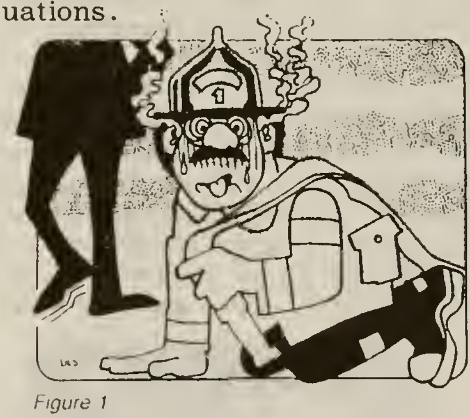
Figure 1

Fire officers began to realize during the 1970s, however, that the old guys' direct approach sometimes fell short when operations became too large and exceeded their ability and attention spans, or when operations moved too fast and exceeded the speed the officers could run (literally). And, it was often hard to find one of them in any one spot consistently, which led to a lot of "where is the chief?"

In short, the old-school command approach would often break down if something unusual happened that put a strain on the overall ability to control and direct. My battalion chief and his fellow officers did the best that a one-man fire command show could do, but it became clear that operations could be improved by developing and using a fireground management system. (Figure 2).

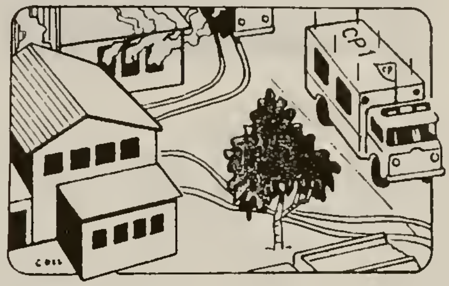

Figure 2

During the time I was doing most of my crawling on smoky floors, fire operations were typically conducted based on organizational directives that described manipulative evolutions. That material was and still is contained in "drill manuals" (Figure 3). These manuals effectively show how to lay hose, raise ladders, and use the tools of our trade. They specifically describe the roles of everyone involved in each evolution. They teach us to think like smoke when we ventilate, like water when we use ladders, and like heat when we operate nozzles. But the material packaged in these "how to" manuals only describes the mechanical aspect of performing fire fighting on the task level - the very important vocational part or our job. However, they make no attempt to describe how we coordinate, manage, and organize fire operations on the tactical and strategic levels.

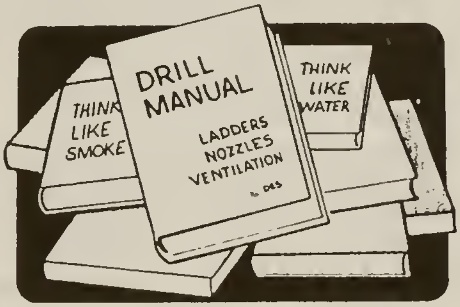

Figure 3

During the "drill manual" days, firefighters were continually frustrated when fireground operations would break down. Officers would generally respond to these problems by breaking out the drill manual and hitting the street to "lay hose," as my old boss would say (sigh) (Figure 4).

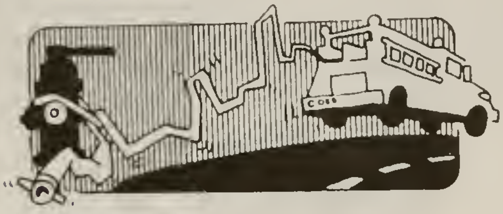

Figure 4

The problem with that was the vast majority of the breakdowns involved fireground management and not a performance problem at the task level. Applying task-level solutions to what were actually management-level problems only increased the frustration, particularly when the next fire would produce the same problems. It almost appeared as if we were practicing mistakes.

The strongest and earliest inclination developed in a firefighter is the natural instinct to attack (thankfully). We are socialized from the beginning of our career on the importance of aggressive fireground action. The system rewards us as we attack. In our world aggressive is good, very aggressive is even better. All command officers are former firefighters who have come through the experience of operating on the business end of a nozzle. Fire fighting, particularly on the nozzle, is essentially an unnatural act that necessarily depends a lot on instinct, and when the chips are down we just naturally do what we know best, what we are the most comfortable with, and what has been reinforced over the longest time. It is predictable that former nozzlemen, now equipped with a gold badge, may be tempted back to this early and powerful socialization.

If the system expects commanders to command, however, there must be as strong a system to support that command action as there was to get us to attack. The system must be directed to shifting not only our behavior, but also our thinking-from **action** to the **command** and **control** of action.

The incident management process finally gave us the opportunity to expand the solution of fireground problems past the task level and to support the role of officers serving as incident commanders. This "beyond drill manual" approach reflected the simple fact that all levels of fireground operations are necessary and all levels are closely connected. If they are to be effective, procedures must be developed and applied on the level where the activity will actually occur.

Problem solving must match solutions to problems on the correct level. No amount of command practice will solve a flooded hose bed. Nor will three weeks of ladder drills help an overloaded fireground commander who has failed to delegate effectively and is attempting to directly manage 15 fire companies. These kinds of frustrations have been greatly reduced by the introduction of incident management systems.

These systems are designed to identify the basic levels of operation required to conduct effective operations and to create a regular organizational response to each level. The levels involve assigning actors with standard job descriptions to the task, tactical, and strategic levels.

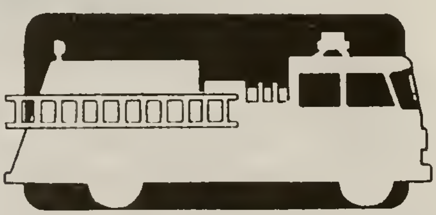

Figure 5

Task-level operations are conducted by working fire companies that practice life safety, fire control, property conservation, and related support activities. (Figure 5). We continue to-and probably always will-rescue victims, stop fires, and save property with the manual labor efforts of firefighters. This is the level where the action occurs, and the entire system is designed to provide support, coordination, direction and resources to the task level of operation. Fireground management systems are created so the task level operates effectively.

Simply stated, if the correct tasks can be performed in the proper places at the right times, we will be effective. If they cannot, no amount of command, organization, or management inspiration will save the situation. This task level must drive the entire incident management system.

Sectors are used within the fireground organization process to provide direct supervision on the tactical level. Sector officers become the middle management link between the workers and the Fireground Commander (Figure 6). These officers are assigned to directly supervise fire fighting operations in geographic areas or the functional activities that are required to support the overall fire fighting effort. Sector officers position themselves in standard locations in the immediate area of their assigned activity and automatically become responsible for the ongoing management of their assignment. Resources are allocated to sector officers by Command based on regular delegation, management, and communications procedures. The system of creating sectors provides the basis for delegating both responsibility and authority. It also gives the Fireground Commander the capability of maintaining an effective span of control through the event.

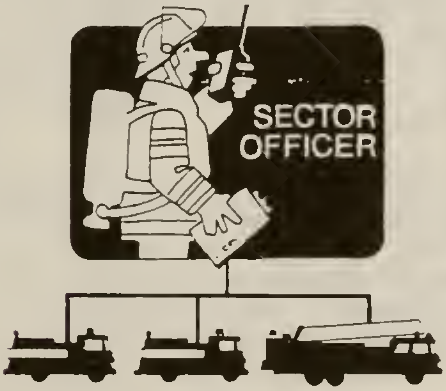

Figure 6

The system of creating and managing sectors also gives Command a way to customize the fireground organization to the actual needs of each situation. The sector system uses and depends on a regular set of designations and procedures that are well known to everyone on the fire fighting team. The ongoing use of sectors-even in routine situations-provides practice in decentralizing command throughout the fireground. Situations that are easily managed get us ready for the "big deals." By quickly integrating their efforts, tactical-level managers can collectively concentrate on achieving standard objectives relating to complex tasks. Managers need to quickly combine their efforts with other sectors over a large area while doing complex tasks. In this way, they can collectively concentrate on achieving standard objectives.

Figure 7

The command level of operation provides management support at the strategic level by establishing a single Fireground Commander in a standard manager at each incident (Figure 7). The Fireground Commander performs a regular set of management functions that make up his job description. A simple list of Fireground Command functions might include:

- * Assume, confirm, and position command.
- * Evaluate the situation.
- * Initiate, maintain, and control communications.
- * Identify strategy, develop attack plan, and assign units.
- * Develop fireground organization.
- * Review, evaluate, and revise the attack plan.
- * Continue, transfer, and terminate command.

When Fireground Commanders consistently perform these functions, the rest of the team begins to understand, support, and depend upon this overall direction. The system allows first-arriving company officers to effectively combine command with fast attack to handle manageable offensive situations (Figure 8). The system also provides for a stationary, remote command post to be established, as quickly as possible (generally by a command officer). This also provides for the assignment of command post aides who work in standard staff support roles to assist the Fireground Commander as the incident grows and more command help arrives. The Fireground Commander can also assign intermediate-level managers between the Fireground Commander and sector officers to continue and reinforce an effective level of span-of-control management.

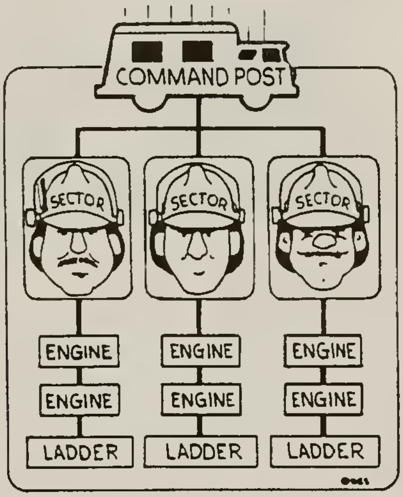

Figure 8

An important tool for the day-to-day operation of the fireground management system is found in written standard operating procedures (SOPs) (Figure 9). The SOPs provide documentation for the fireground management system, much the same as the drill manual provides for the manipulative evolutions. The SOPs describe the basic areas required for effective operation of the overall management system. They typically address, for example, command, sectors, communications, safety, tactical priorities, and support and safety.

Figure 9

The development and ongoing management of SOPs allow individual fire departments to decide how to best use their resources with the conditions that exist and the situations that occur. SOPs translate these decisions into documentation for training, field operation, review, and revision. These standard steps help the overall fireground management system to operate effectively and form the elements of an understandable, results-oriented management model.

The model is designed so that procedures are developed and practiced before the incident, giving the participants a chance to discuss, argue, understand, and agree on the game plan before the game (a novel approach). SOPs provide the plays the team will use as the game goes on. After the event, the coach can review the outcome and evaluate how well the plays and players actually worked. SOPs eliminate any mystery about how the system should work on the fireground. They give the organization a chance to take a progressive approach to system development and problem solving. SOPs can be used to develop a Management By Objective (MBO) approach to where we want our system to go, to solve problems as they occur, and to eliminate the old-time syndrome of practicing mistakes.

Operational safety and firefighter survival continue to be a major fire service concern. A great deal of fireground management system effort is directed toward providing for firefighter safety and effectiveness by establishing and maintaining control of their position and function. Basic command and control procedures merge standard risk management into every fire fighting operation.

This approach continually evaluates and balances the risk to firefighters with the potential benefit of that exposure. An example of a standard management policy might be:

* We will begin our response on the assumption that we can protect lives and property (Figure 10)

* We will risk our lives a lot if necessary to protect savable lives (Figure 11).

* We will risk our lives only a little and in a calculated manner to protect savable property (Figure 12).

* We will not risk our lives at all to protect lives or property that are already lost (Figure 13).

Figure 11

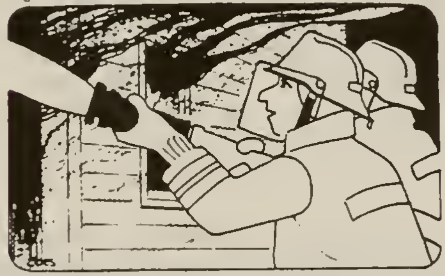

Figure 12

Figure 13

Such a risk management plan will provide the basis for fireground evaluation, decision making, strategy development, attack planning, operational control, and plan revision. The plan should be formulated in a standard fireground safety operational procedure and should become an important part of the regular fireground management process. The system requires that fire operations start out and continue under the direction and control of the Fireground Commander.

Perhaps the most important responsibility of a Fireground Commander is the ongoing management of the overall operational strategy. The Fireground Command System creates an SOP definition and plan for offensive, marginal, and defensive modes of operation. The Fireground Commander must continually evaluate action and related conditions and decide if, among other things, the troops will conduct inside or outside operations. Successful strategy management requires the Fireground Commander to create an effective organization, manage the communications process, and maintain a standard command post position where he has a fighting chance to see, hear, evaluate, think, and talk in a lucid manner.

This is good stuff when it all occurs according to plan and creates an operational system that gives firefighters the best shot at old age.

The current state of fireground management is in a stage of active development. Lots of folks are attending fireground management classes, developing their own systems, and networking with other fire guys to exchange experiences, material, and information. This cross-pollination is how we spread the word and how we implement and improve our systems.

What we are all doing now has emerged from efforts started in Southern California among agencies that routinely joined forces to operate on the seasonal wildfires there (Figure 14). The agencies developed standard nomenclature, procedures, philosophy and agreements to form the Incident Command System (ICS).

Figure 14

While the rest of us were struggling to somehow get "A" shift to talk to "B" shift (!), the ICS group created a system that routinely assembles, organizes, and manages firefighters from virtually every California fire department. The officers involved in the original Firescope Project and their colleagues are truly the incident command pioneers of our service. They had the vision to establish the basic system and leadership capability to pull it off in a service that generally has a bizarre approach to change. The entire U.S. fire service owes them a debt of gratitude for their original and ongoing work.

Pioneering does, however, have its valleys. The ICS visionaries now find themselves in the somewhat frustrating position of having others adapt their system to conditions found in every sort of department all over our country. They understandably have some concern when others (particularly short people) "bastardize" the pure ICS System for local use.

The basic ICS principles will continue to be the foundation for the development of locally adapted systems. That will make for better fire fighting. As younger officers move up through the systems, I hope the pride of authorship will be replaced with a focus on routine system operation.

I was here before ICS and I was here after ICS. After is better (Figure 15).

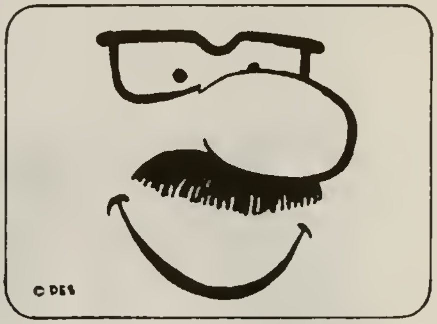

Figure 15

(This article was reprinted from the IFSTA Speaking of Fire, Spring 1989. Illustrations done by Don Sellers.)

You will never stub your toe standing still. The faster you go, the more chance there is of stubbing your toe, but the more chance you have of getting somewhere!

People Page

OBITUARY

BILL WEBER, 34

BILL WEBER lost his life in a traffic accident near Deer Lodge, March 26. Bill was returning home after attending the Instructor's Society Meeting in Kalispell when a vehicle went out of control in the opposite lane of I90, crossed the median and struck the vehicle he was operating. His funeral service, March 30 in Deer Lodge was attended by a large number of fire and rescue workers.

The driver who struck Bill has been charged with Drunk Driving and Negligent Homicide.

Bill was Chief of the Rae Volunteer Fire Company, an FSTS Certified Instructor and employed by Halls Ambulance. He also worked part time as a Fire Inspector for Belgrade.

The Plentywood FGO Class, April 21 - 23 was dedicated to Bill. He was scheduled to teach a part of it.

Bill is survived by his wife, Barbara and two children ages 3 and 9.

No one was ever more dedicated to the emergency services. We will miss him.

- HUNT INJURED -

Michael Hunt, Captain; Billings FD and President of the Montana Fireman's Association was injured in a fall during a rescue attempt on the Rimrocks on April 14. After several days of hospitalization he was released April 19.

Mike says, "The bone in my heel is shattered." He expects doctors to try April 21 to reform it in hopes that it will grow back together.

The injury resulted when a knot on a Stokes came unraveled. Mike fell about 60 feet.

CHIEF RICHMOND RETIRES

After 48 years on the Chinook Volunteer Fire Department - the last 21 as Chief - Hobert Richmond is retiring. Richmond said "They gave me a lifetime certificate and I get to keep my pager. I guess I'll be part of the Department until I die, even if it's not official."

In his nearly half-century on the Department, he said "We've never put anybody in the hospital - not a one of us ever got hurt and that's pretty darn good, I'd say."

Chief Richmond feels fit and still hopes to assist the 20 member force.

NEW DES BOSS

Major Guy Youngblood, USAF, Deputy Wing Inspector from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls will be the new State Director of Disaster and Emergency Services.

Multiple Fire Fighter Deaths

Fire fighting ranks as one of the hazardous occupations in the nation. In 1987, 126 fire fighters lost their lives.

Some of the major multiple fire fighter deaths from recent years are listed below:

* 1988 Kansas City, MO, **6** fire fighters died in an explosion and fire at a construction site;

* 1988 Hackensak, NJ, **5** fire fighters died when a car dealership roof collapsed on them;

* 1973 Kingman, AZ, **13** fire fighters and a civilian were killed in a rail tank car fire;

* 1966 New York City, NY **12** fire fighters died in a fire in a commercial building near Madison Square Garden;

* 1959 Kansas City, MO, **5** fire fighters died in a fire and explosion of a gasoline tank;

* 1956 Sun Ray, TX, **19** fire fighters died in an oil refinery fire; and

* 1947 Texas City, TX, **27** fire fighters (the entire fire department) killed and at least 560 civilians killed in an explosion and fire of ammonium nitrate as a result of a dock fire.

(Source: Information from NFPA and compiled by the International Association of Fire Chiefs)

SEEN IN THE NEWS: a Big Timber fire fighter with full protective clothing and SCBA attacking a vehicle fire on the Interstate - March 15. **ATTA BOY!**

Sitting up to take notice doesn't do any good - if you keep on sitting.

BIG FIRES START SMALL: Keep Matches and Lighters In The Right Hands.

NFPA has selected the above idea for this year's theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 8 - 14 1989.

Fires started by children playing with matches or lighters cause three out of every ten pre-school fire deaths in the United States.

REPRESENTATIVE PAT WILLIAMS AND SENATOR CONRAD BURNS JOIN FIRE CAUCUS...

Representative Pat Williams and Senator Conrad Burns have joined with Representative Ron Marlene as members of the Congressional Fire Caucus. There are now 305 members in the Caucus, making it one of the largest on Capitol Hill.

RECORDS FALL!

The previous record for students attending FSTS Classes was 517 set in the first 3 months of 1986. That record was bettered this year with 590 attendees at FSTS direct delivered courses. Also smashed was the old record for contact hours. It stood at 5886 but was surpassed this past quarter with 7828.

FROM MICHIGAN...

All Michigan fire organizations supported, and got passed into law, a requirement that volunteer and career fire fighters receive 132 hours of training during their first two years in the fire service!

**** RECERTIFICATION ****

YOU MAY BE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR CERTIFICATION IF YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED THE RECERITIFICATION NOTICE YOU RECEIVED! ACT NOW!!!

(The following article is reprinted with permission from the Terry Tribune.)

KITCHEN FIRE CLAIMS LIFE

"A 65-year old Terry man has died at a Salt Lake City hospital as the result of a Saturday afternoon fire at his residence in Terry.

Terry Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dwight Tague said Alfred John Carls was taken to the Prairie Community Hospital in Terry and stabilized, then transported by ambulance to Miles City, from where an aircraft flew him to a Salt Lake City burn center.

Carls died at 1:58a.m. Sunday in Salt Lake.

Tague said it appears the fire started in the kitchen in a sack used for garbage, possibly from an ashtray dumped in it.

Carls lived alone in the second floor apartment of the Gackle Apartments building, he said.

The fire department responded to the scene after an upstairs occupant of the apartment building smelled the smoke and went across the street to use a neighbor's phone, calling the department at 4:23p.m., said Sheriff Gary Larsen.

Carls was found--clad only in his underwear--lying in the doorway between his kitchen and living room, near an exit to the outside.

He was unconscious and had been burned "pretty severely," over 70 percent of his body, Larsen said.

The apartment has three exits, Prairie County Coroner Dale Hellman said, but the other two exits were padlocked from the outside. Larsen and Hellman noted that locking all but one exit is common practice for some people.

The fire burned only the kitchen and was extinguished soon after the fire fighters arrived.

Tague said the department completed mop-up and had equipment returned to the station by 5 p.m.

Tague said the amount of damage has not yet been determined, but that it was felt damage is repairable and estimated it at $10,000 to $12,000.

The apartment building is located about a block south of Terry's Main Street.

The Miles City Arson Team assisted with investigation of the cause of the accidental fire, a spokesman said."

NEW BILLINGS FIRE CHIEF

Loren Ballard, Division Chief in charge of Operations for the Denver Fire Department will assume the Billings Chief's slot on May 15. Loren will retire from the Denver Department where he has served since '63, after holding virtually every supervisory position in the Organization, including the Training and Prevention Post. Loren attended Denver University on a football scholarship (half back) and received his B.S. in Business Administration from Regis College. In addition to his impressive management background, he also has leadership experience in labor, serving as Secretary/Treasurer for the Firefighters Local in Denver during the early 70's.

Loren is married with three grown children. Two sons live and work in the Denver area, a daughter is attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

An avid elk hunter and outdoorsman, Loren also enjoys tennis and looks forward to life in a smaller community.

Obviously, Loren will be an asset to the Montana Fire Service.

WELCOME TO MONTANA LOREN, and best of luck in your new job!

(The following article is reprinted with permission from The Missoulian.)

SURVEY FINDS FLAWS IN SCHOOL FIRE INSPECTIONS

"Four out of five school districts in western Montana rely on volunteer fire fighters, not trained fire marshals, to perform the annual fire inspections of their school buildings that state law demands, a Missoulian survey determined.

Yet many of those same volunteer fire fighters acknowledge that the thoroughness and adequacy of many of these inspections is questionable.

The lack of training and professionalism may mean that some schools, especially those built years ago and extensively remodeled without obtaining proper building permits, may be unsafe, fire fighters and state officials say.
But since no systematic reporting or enforcement exists, nobody knows for sure.

"We're not giving good inspections now," said Libby's volunteer department Chief Bill Kemp in an interview after the survey was taken.

"We really don't know what to look for" during school inspections, said John Meckler, the assistant chief of the Plains Volunteer Department. "It bothers me a lot to even make an inspection because of my lack of training."

Meckler, a librarian in the Plains school system, does the fire inspections as a volunteer fire fighter.

"We don't have anybody who we feel is qualified to do it (school inspections)," said Bud Johnson, board member of the Seeley Lake Rural Fire District. As a result, the Seeley Lake district does no inspections at all, because it fears liability in the event of fire.

Seventy of the 80 school districts in western Montana answered the survey. It found that in only nine districts, all of which were in or near urban areas like Missoula and Kalispell, do professional, trained fire marshal routinely perform the school inspections. In at least five school districts - St. Regis and Saltese in Mineral County, Sylvanite and Yaak in Lincoln County and Sunset in Missoula County - no fire department inspections are made at all.

Many of the volunteer fire fighters who do inspections say they aren't skilled in the intricacies of fire-code rules and building-construction safety. They do not have the training or experience that professional fire marshals must have to work for the state Fire Marshal Bureau or as fire marshal in professional departments in larger cities.

Others say that their warnings often are not heeded by the school districts because they lack the authority and clout a professional brings to the job.

Kemp said his 28-member, combined rural and city volunteer department in Libby hopes to upgrade its fire-inspection capability this year by hiring a full-time professional to perform fire inspections, plus do needed vehicle maintenance.

But smaller towns and rural areas don't have the resources to hire or train an inspector. The state Fire Marshal Bureau has no training program specifically to train volunteer firemen to inspect buildings - something sorely needed, said Meckler, who is president of the Sanders County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

"We need a training program for rural volunteers so we know what we are doing and we make inspections that have some teeth in them," he said.

On occasion, some fire districts or school administrators ask the state fire marshals to inspect schools for fire safety.

In western Montana, those inspections are done by Mike Stotts of Kalispell, state fire marshal for eight western Montana counties. He has extensive training and experience in fire codes, safety and investigation, and his agency has overall supervisory authority for fire safety and prevention in schools and other public buildings.

But the law expressly delegates the school-inspection duties to local fire districts or, if the area has no fire protection at all, to the county sheriff, said state Fire Marshal Bureau Chief Ray Blehm in Helena. (Despite the latter provision of the law, no county sheriff in western Montana inspects any buildings for fire safety.)

Schools in Alberton, Thompson Falls, Dixon and Seeley Lake have been inspected by Stotts recently, either at the school's request or the request of the local fire district.

But such visits are not routinely made each year because of lack of time, Stotts said.

He said he makes more than 200 mandated inspections of public buildings each year, not including schools. He must visit all state institutions in the eight-county region, plus larger daycare centers and group homes for the disabled.

And his primary responsibility he points out, is determining the cause of fires, not inspecting buildings.

He said that local inspections, even if they are done by untrained volunteers, still serve a useful purpose.

"One of the big benefits is if they (local volunteers) inspect the building, they know the layout of the building," he said. That's important because, in the event of fire, it is the local volunteers, not a fire marshal from Kalispell, who must try to put it out.

In most cases, Stotts leaves any follow-up of his inspections to local officials he said.

Leonard Lovhaug, a member of the Thompson Falls City Fire Department for 32 years, who took over as fire chief last year, acknowledges that familiarity with local buildings is important to local volunteer fire fighters.

But the law's purpose also is to reduce fire risk or, in the event of fire, ensure safe exit of the people inside the building and limit property damage.

Lovhaug said even when local fire volunteers find things wrong with schools they inspect, their reports are often filed away and forgotten.

"We can only make recommendations that this stuff be corrected," he said.

He said local fire officials have been making written reports to the Thompson Falls school district for years, pointing out deficiencies in the buildings and in some school practices - chaining or locking exit doors shut, for example, while people are still inside.

But he has noticed little change, he said.

"We have no jurisdiction or power to follow through to see that anything's done," he said.

"Safety is a low priority," in the school district agreed Thompson Falls Rural Fire Department Chief James Krogman, a volunteer who also serves as the Sanders County Civil Defense Coordinator.

Fire district volunteers in other communities noted that in small closely knit communities, it is asking too much of the local volunteer firemen to enforce fire code regulations that may cost the local school district more money that it can afford to spend.

During a recent inspection, Lovhaug, Krogman and a reporter accompanied Stotts through the Thompson Falls elementary school complex - four aging buildings high on a hill above the city center, plus a separate boiler building.

Lovhaug said he called Stotts in for help because the school district was not taking the local firemen's recommendations seriously.

Stotts' inspection uncovered numerous violations of state fire or building codes - doors not built to fire-safety standards, unsafe and unapproved remodeling, improper venting of doors, blocked exits, "remodeled" dead-end corridors, fire extinguishers not serviced, electrical wiring exposed, flammable materials improperly stored, fire alarms not serviced or not working at all. He found one fire hose, hanging on a wall, that may or may not be connected to a water supply - nobody at the school seemed to know for sure.

Stotts said that many of the violations were not severe enough for follow-up action, and were typical of older schools.

"When built, it was built to code," he said of the school complex. "The main thing is that people can get out of the building safely."

But, like many older schools, some of the buildings have been extensively remodeled, leading to uses and conditions never anticipated by the original architect.

At Thompson Falls, for example, a building originally constructed as a dormitory, has been remodeled for classes, including a kindergarten class held in the hallway. An outside door at one end of a corridor was sealed off as well - an apparent fire-code violation.

Jim Brown, chief of the Buildings Code Bureau in Helena, says many schools and other public buildings are remodeled cheaply without obtaining building permits for the work, contrary to state codes. The only way to catch this is through fire inspections at the local level, he said.

"Typically, we never hear about it," he said of the unauthorized remodeling.

In Thompson Falls, for example, two exits from the spectators' balcony in the school gym were boarded up last fall because of an asbestos hazard.

It would cost about $30,000 to remove the asbestos, said the school's maintenance engineer, Ken Hammerberg. It only cost about $30 to nail the exits shut with plywood.

But Stotts noted that the balcony continued to be used by spectators, and the spectators clearly would be in danger in the event of a fire because they couldn't get out in time. He noted that in the two exits that still exist, the door open inward rather than outward - another fire code violation.

School Superintendent Gene Ostwald said he had not yet received Stott's report on the most recent inspection, so he couldn't comment on it.

He said the concerns of the local fire inspections have been listed to over the years, and some of them have been addressed.

"But the issue was never pressed," he said. "It was always, 'Well, if you ever get around to it.'"

Don't worry about empty pockets. Work about an empty head or an empty heart!

PHOENIX FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
M.P. 205.01
8/85-R Page 1 of 2

Safety Procedures

SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

It is the policy of the Phoenix Fire Department that all personnel expected to respond and function in areas of atmospheric contamination, shall be equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus (S.C.B.A.) and trained in its proper use and maintenance.

Each member of the Operations Division shall be accountable for one (1) S.C.B.A. and shall check the condition of that S.C.B.A. at the beginning of each shift, after each use, and at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state of condition.

Company officers shall assign a specific S.C.B.A. to each crew member. Each crew member will be responsible for the proper use and function of that S.C.B.A.

If a S.C.B.A. is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, red tagged, reported, and replaced immediately. Replacement S.C.B.A.s shall be obtained from Resource Management or from Car 214 after normal working hours.

The intent of the S.C.B.A. policy is to avoid any respiratory contact with products of combustion, superheated gases, toxic products or other hazardous contaminants.

The use of breathing apparatus means that all personnel shall have facepieces in place, breathing air from the supply provided. Where appropriate, Airline-Supplied Breathing Apparatus may be used in place of S.C.B.A.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus shall be used by all personnel operating:

- in a contaminated atmosphere
- in an atmosphere which may suddenly become contaminated
- in an atmosphere which is oxygen deficient
- in an atmosphere which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient

This includes all personnel operating:

- in an active fire area
- directly above an active fire area
- in a potential explosion or fire area, including gas leaks and fuel spills

- where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, including vehicle fires and dumpster fires
- where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (i.e. Carbon Monoxide during overhaul)
- where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning
- in any confined space which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety

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In addition to the above, S.C.B.A. shall be worn by all personnel operating at fire incidents above ground, below ground or in any other area which is not, but which may become contaminated by products of combustion or other hazardous substances. In these circumstances only, the S.C.B.A. may be worn with the facepiece removed. The wearing of S.C.B.A. in these situations provides that it will be immediately available for use if conditions change or if personnel are to enter an area where the use of S.C.B.A. is required.

Premature removal of S.C.B.A. must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul when smoldering materials may produce increased quantities of carbon monoxide and other toxic products. In these cases S.C.B.A. must be used or the atmosphere must be changed.

In routine fire situations, the decision to remove S.C.B.A. shall be made by company officers, with the approval of Sector Officers, based on an evaluation of conditions. Prior to removal, fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and, where necessary, continuous ventilation shall be provided.

If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, S.C.B.A. use shall be maintained until the atmosphere is established to be safe by testing. Safety Sector personnel shall be responsible for this determination. This is required in complex situations, particularly when toxic materials may be involved.

An evaluation of all members of the Operations Division in the use of the S.C.B.A. shall be conducted annually. Each member shall be able to demonstrate a high level of proficiency and compatibility with the S.C.B.A. under conditions which simulate those expected as a job requirement.

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Phoenix Fire Department.

1989 TRAINING SCHEDULE

It is important to Pre-Register for each of the following courses as minimum attendance has been established and must be met or class will be cancelled. NOTE: (NFA-National Fire Academy Field Courses); (FSTS-Fire Services Training School located in Great Falls Vo-Tech Center, 2100 16th Avenue South); (EMS-EMS Bureau, 444-3895); (DES-Disaster & Emergency Services, 444-6963); (DOT-Department of Transportation); (DSL-Department of State Lands, 542-4300); (MDHES, Jean Riley, 444-5970) (* Application required. Limited class size. Contact FSTS.) Satellite Programs on Spacenet begin at 9:00am and conclude approximately 1:30pm.

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION
May 1989		
3 - 4	Haz Mats Incident Management	FSTS
5 - 6	Advanced Trauma Life Support (EMS)	Big Sky
5 - 7	National Fire Prevention & Education Conference	Crystal City, VA
5 - 7	Class A Foam and Structural Fire Fighting	Belgrade
6 - 7	Practical Skill Instruction Training Program (EMS)	Bozeman
7	Ventilation with John Mittendorf	Columbia Falls
9	Arson Detection	East Helena
13	Integrated Approach to Haz Mats	Butte
13 - 14	EMT-B and EMT-D Exams (EMS)	Missoula
16 - 17	Public Safety News Media Relations (LEA 994-3918)	Billings $100 Fee
17	U.S.F.A. Forum on Communicable Diseases	Satellite
20 - 21	Manager/Coord Training Prog (EMS)	Miles City
20 - 21	Haz Mats Incident Management	Dawson Community College - Glendive
20 - 21	Fire Fighter Safety and Survival	Havre
June 1989		
3 - 4	Haz Mats Incident Management	Plentywood
3 - 4	EMT-B and EMT-D Exams (EMS)	Great Falls
5	Liability Management	Gallatin County
10	Blaine County Fire School	Blaine County
10 - 11	EMT-B and EMT-D Exams (EMS)	Miles City
13 - 15	Exercise Design Course (DES)	Miles City
15 - 17	Volunteer Fire Fighters Convention	Great Falls
21	Protective Actions in Haz Mats	Satellite
22 - 23	Haz Mats Incident Management	Missoula Vo-Tech
24	Fire Fighter Safety on the Fireground	Clinton
24 - 25	Fire Fighter I Instructor Training	Red Lodge
24 - 25	EMT-B and EMT-D Exams (EMS)	Great Falls
24 - 26	Dive Rescue 1	LEA Bozeman
28	Community Awareness in Disasters and Emergencies	Satellite
29 - 30	Hazardous Materials Incident Management	Polson
July 1989		
8 - 9	New Chiefs Course	FSTS
12 - 13	1st Response to Radiation Emergencies (2 Day Course)	Satellite

July 1989 (cont'd)

19	Heat Stress Induced by Chemical Protective Clothing	Satellite
22 - 23	Low Angle Rescue ($20 Fee)	GFFD Training Center
25 - 29	Shelter Systems Officer Course (DES)	Great Falls
?	State Firemens Association Convention	Butte

August 1989

9	Will Your Sprinkler Work?	Satellite
23	Community Flood Plan Course	Satellite
26 - 27	Rural Water Supply & Tender Shuttle	(Needs Host!)

September 1989

6 - 8	Fire Command School	Pocatello, ID
9 - 10	(NFA) Incident Command System	Helena
14	Emergency Management & Fire Training Journal	Satellite
16	Intro to Critical Incident Stress	Glendive
Postponed	ICBO Fire Codes Course	
29 - 30	State Fire Chiefs Conference	Billings Holiday Inn

November 1989

15	Computers in Disaster and Emergency Management	Satellite

December 1989

2 - 3	(NFA) Incident Command System	Flathead Valley
2 - 3	(NFA) Fire Fighter Health & Safety	Gallatin County
2 - 3	Basic Fire Prevention	Big Timber
6 - 7	Basic Inspections	FSTS

1990

January 1990

6 - 7	Fire Fighter Safety and Survival	Missoula
6 - 7	(NFA) Tactical Operations for Company Officers - Part 2	Wolf Point
6 - 7	New Chiefs Course	FSTS
13 - 14	Haz Mats Incident Management	Malta

February 1990

3 - 4	Fire Command II	Laurel
10 - 11	(NFA) Incident Command System	Billings
17 - 18	Haz Mats Incident Management	Dillon
24 - 25	(NFA) Building Construction: Wood and Ordinary Construction	FSTS

March 1990

3 - 4	Fire Command II	Missoula

- -

REGISTRATION FORM

Course:__________________ Date:__________________

Name__________________________________ Address______________________________

Department______________________________ Daytime Phone_______________________

Return to: Montana Fire Services Training School; 2100 16th Avenue South;
Great Falls, MT 59405-4997 (Phone: 761-7885)

PRESIDENT BUSH SPEAKS

President George Bush told a standing-room-only crowd at the inaugural dinner April 12 for the Congressional Fire Services Institute that his Administration believes the fire service deserves a federal government that "understands and values" its importance in America.

"Fifteen years ago, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created to ensure that your concerns would be heard by every level of government," he said. "I intend for those concerns to be heard."

He told the audience that his Administration wants "the original intent of the Federal Fire Act of 1974 to be maintained."

The President's remarks provided the keynote for the historic evening that also included a visit from Vice President Dan Quayle. The event, co-sponsored by the NVFC, brought together nearly 2,000 people, representing a broad cross-section of the fire and emergency services and Congress, to ensure continued support for the Congressional Fire Services Caucus.

The Council was represented at the event by Directors and Alternates from 16 states.

FIRE CHIEFS CONFERENCE
September 29 - 30 1989
Billings

The Chiefs Conference is set for September 29 - 30 1989 in Billings. (NOTE: This year the usual schedule has been changed from Thursday-Friday to Friday-Saturday.)

Registration, the Code Section, a Certification Hearing, Career Chiefs, and Council of Fire Service Organizations will likely be scheduled for Thursday, September 28.

The Conference Theme is "Hazardous Materials". Additional information will appear in the July *Fire Guard*.

MONTANA STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS CONVENTION
Great Falls - Heritage Inn
June 15 - 17 1989

JUNE 15

8am	Board Meeting
9am	General Meeting
10am-Noon	"History of Foam" - Gary Wallace (Malory Company)
Noon	Small parade of new and antique fire trucks, from Heritage Inn to the Fairgrounds
Noon-1:30	Dept of State Lands Mini-FireCamp (Lunch)
1:30pm-4pm	Foam Applications for both wildland and structures
4pm-5pm	Fireground Operations by Fire Services Training School
5pm-6pm	Vendor Displays and Demonstrations at Fairgrounds
6pm	Picnic - Pitchfork Fondue
7pm	Water games, etc.

JUNE 16

9am-Noon	"Urban-Residential Interface" by Dan Bailey (USFS) at Heritage Inn
Noon-1pm	Lunch
1pm-5pm	General Meeting
6pm-7pm	No Host Cocktails at Heritage Inn
7pm	Banquet Heritage Inn Guest Speakers include: John Melcher, Former United States Senator Richard Manning, State Senator Barry Michelotti, Cascade County Sheriff

Dance following Banquet (Juke Box Band)

JUNE 17

8am-Noon	General Meeting continues

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR INTERNATIONAL BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FIRE SERVICE AWARD

Nominations are now being accepted for the recipient of the prestigious International Benjamin Franklin Service Award for Valor co-sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Motorola Inc., Communications Sector.

The International Benjamin Franklin Fire Service Award is a program specially designed to recognize the spirit of service, courage and heroism that is a tradition among the world's fire service.

The program is named for one of the first fire chiefs in the United States, Benjamin Franklin. An inventor, statesman and humanitarian, Mr. Franklin was a prime contributor to that wealth of tradition that symbolizes the fire service worldwide.

Presented by the International Association of Fire Chiefs to honor deserving fire fighters at its annual conference, the award honors them for the expert training, professional service and dedication to duty they have displayed in the saving of a human life. However, the program is much more. By making good use of publicity to draw attention to award recipients, their departments and the fire service generally, the program serves as a key tool in continuously developing public knowledge and support for the fire service.

For additional information and nominations, contact Benjamin Franklin Award Coordinator, IAFC Headquarters, 1329 18th St., NW; Washington, DC 20036-6516 (202) 833-3420.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY SETS 2-SEMESTER COURSE SCHEDULE

Changes in the admission policy at the National Fire Academy (NFA) will establish a two-semester year and give priority to the most qualified student applicants in the 1989-90 academic year.

The changes apply to on-campus resident courses, but have no effect on off-campus courses or weekend programs, according to NFA's Interim Supt. Charles H. Boehne.

"The new policy will help eliminate the first-come, first-served admission process", according to the NFA's Interim Supt. Charles H. Boehne. "By having two application periods, the Academy will be in a better position to identify qualified students who most closely match the specific criteria."

As part of the new admissions policy, there will be a two-month open period for applications for the two semesters. No applications will be considered if they are postmarked before or after the stipulated open period.

The application period for the first semester, which runs from October 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990, will be May 1 to June 30, 1989. Applications for the second semester, April 1 until September 30, 1990, will be accepted from November 1 through December 31 1989.

Applicants selected will be notified at lest 60 days prior to the semesters. Applicants not accepted for a given semester will be required to submit a new application to be considered for a subsequent semester, NFA officials said.
New course schedules were being mailed Friday, April 14.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Office of Admissions and Registration; National Emergency Training Center; 16825 South Seton Avenue; Emmitsburg, MD 21721-8995.

(Both articles reprinted from ISFSI Communications Link)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
FORESTRY DIVISION

STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR
2705 SPURGIN ROAD
STATE OF MONTANA
(406) 542-4300
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

FROM: The Montana Department of State Lands

CONTACT: Steve Jorgenson, Fire Investigator @ 542-4206 in Missoula.

SUBJECT: 1989 FIRE SEASON

RELEASE: April 30, 1989

KILL: May 5, 1989

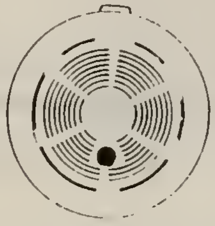
The Montana Department of State Lands, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and all county fire protection agencies in the state wish to remind Montana residents that the legal Forest Fire Season begins Monday, May 1st; and lasts through September 30, 1989. All persons conducting outdoor burning during the Fire Season must first obtain a burning permit from the wildland fire protection agency in their area. Additional local burning regulations may also apply in certain towns, cities and counties. It is best to check with local authorities regarding burning requirements in your area.

Burning permits are issued to help these agencies more effectively manage their fire protection programs and to insure that permittees take the necessary precautions when burning grass, brush, slash or other vegatative debris. These permits are free of charge, but burning without one could get you a fine of up to $500 as it is illegal to burn without a permit. You can get a permit over the phone by simply giving us the legal description of where you will be burning, i.e. Section, Township and Range.

We all want to avoid a fire season like the one we had last summer. Be careful with fire. Remember, you may be liable for suppression costs and damages resulting from an escaped fire even if you have a permit.

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

FIRE GUARD NEWSLETTER
Montana Fire Services Training School
2100 16th Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana 59405-4997



BULK RATE